

of Fowler, Perholtz, and Emmott, and specifically their lack of a teaching or suggestion in claim 33 of a microwave oven having a signal converting unit that performs the following functions:

- 1) “automatically converting the downloaded cooking information into a signal capable of being recognized by the microcomputer when said one of the displayed results is selected by a user;” and that
- 2) the converted signal “control[s] the microcomputer to automatically set the oven to perform a cooking operation in response to a user signal.”

In other words, when a user selects one of the displayed results of an Internet search performed by a search engine in the oven, the selected result is converted into a signal which automatically sets the oven (e.g., time, cooking power, or other cooking parameter) to perform a cooking operation for a specific type of food. These features are not taught or suggested by the Fowler, Perholtz, and Emmott references, whether taken alone or in combination.

The Thurm publication does not make up for the deficiencies of Fowler, Perholtz, and Emmott. The Thurm publication discloses a system which includes a refrigerator having a built-in Internet search engine and display screen. These features are coupled to a microwave oven. In operation, a user performs an Internet search using the refrigerator search engine, and then the results of the search are displayed on the refrigerator display screen. When a user selects one of the search results (e.g., a recipe), the oven is programmed to cook food.

The Thurm system, thus, requires two appliances to perform and display the results of an Internet search and then to configure an oven to cook food based on a selected one of the results. In contrast, the claimed invention performs all of these functions within its oven. No other additional appliances are required.

More specifically, the system disclosed in the Thurm publication requires a refrigerator to perform and display the results of an Internet search for cooking information. The oven is then programmed based only on the information it receives from the refrigerator. The Thurm oven does not include an Internet search engine to perform a search for cooking information, or a display unit for displaying results of the search as recited in claim 33. And while the Thurm oven is automatically programmed based on a selected search result, it must receive that result from the refrigerator, not from an Internet search engine and display unit built directly into the oven.

By requiring two appliances to perform Internet search, display, and oven programming functions, the Thurm system is more costly, more complex, and less efficient to use than the claimed invention. For at least these reasons and based on the aforementioned structural omissions, it is respectfully submitted that claim 33 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited combinations.

Claim 8 recites a microwave oven having “a converter which automatically converts one of a plurality of displayed results of an Internet search containing cooking information into a signal recognizable by the microcomputer in response to a first user signal,” that “the first user signal selects said one of said plurality of displayed results of the Internet search,” and that “the

converted signal controls the microcomputer to automatically generate a control signal to set the oven to cook food based on the cooking information in response to a second user signal.” The Thurm oven does not display Internet search results, nor does it receive a selection signal selecting one of the displayed results. These functions are performed in the refrigerator of Thurm.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited combinations. Claim 22 recites features similar to those discussed above which patentably distinguish claims 8 and 33 from the cited combinations, and therefore are also allowable.

In addition, claim 16 recites that the data transmission available signal assumes a first level when the converter is in a state for sending data to the microcomputer and assumes a second level when the microcomputer is in a state for receiving data from the converter. The cited references do not individually or collectively teach or suggest these features.

Claim 17 recites that a global interrupt signal is input into the microcomputer when the data transmission available signal assumes said first level. The cited references do not individually or collectively teach or suggest these features.

Claim 18 recites that a data read control signal is input into the microcomputer when the data transmission available signal assumes said first level. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 19 recites that the data read control signal is a 1-byte interrupt signal. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 20 recites that the microcomputer “receives the converted signal containing the cooking information in synchronism with a data receive property signal, and wherein the microcomputer recognizes that it is in a ready state to receive data when the data receive property signal assumes a first value and recognizes that it is in a state where data reading has been completed with the data receive property signal assumes a second value.” These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 21 recites that the data transmission available signal, the global interrupt signal, the data read control signal, and the data receive property signal are received through different ports of the microcomputer. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claims 27-32 recite additional features that patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references, for many of the same reasons noted with respect to the dependent claims discussed above. Accordingly, it is submitted that these claims are also allowable.

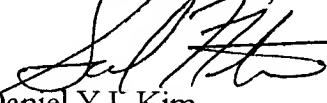
Claim 37 recites that the microcomputer recognizes a data transmission zone of the signal converting unit if a high signal generated by the signal converting unit is applied to the microcomputer, while the microcomputer recognizes a data transmission zone of the

microcomputer if a low signal is applied to the microcomputer. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
Telephone: 703-766-3701
Facsimile: 703-766-3644
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